(c) Discussions were held with the U.S., the U.N., Iraq's neighbours and Iraqi representatives concerning these issues. Clarifications were obtained on some of the issues, while some gray areas remained.

Indian troops for Iraq

476. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the question of Indian troops to Iraq for helping establishment of transitional Government in Iraq and for setting up a democratically elected regime in that country;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter;

(c) the terms and conditions appended to the scheme;

(d) whether the scheme has the UN sanction;

(e) whether Indian troops if deployed would serve under American military command; and

(f) if not, the strategy worked out by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government's decision of July 14 in this regard is as follows:

"The Government of India has given careful thought to the question of sending Indian troops to Iraq.

Our longer term national interest, our concern for the people of Iraq, our long-standing ties with the Gulf region as a whole, as well as our growing dialogue and strengthened ties with the U.S. have been key elements in this consideration.

India remains ready to respond to the urgent needs of the Iraqi people for stability, security, political progress and economic reconstruction. Were there be an explicit UN mandate for the purpose, the Government of India could Consider the deployment of our troops in Iraq.

In the meanwhile, Government of India is ready to contribute to the restoration of infrastructure, medical, health, educational, communications and other civilian needs of the Iraqi people. As a

concrete gesture of our support to the Iraqi people, we are already planning to set up, jointly with Jordan, a hospital in Najaf in Iraq."

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

Illegal immigration from Bangladesh

477. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a joint communique issued in 1992 Bangladesh had admitted that illegal immigration of india is a serious problem;

(b) whether India and Bangladesh have agreed to check the problem through establishing mechanism for a joint verification; and

(c) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) In the Joint Communique issued following the visit of the Bangladesh Prime Minister to India in 1992, both sides expressed their determination to stop illegal movement of people across their borders taking into account the problems being caused due to large scale immigration of people across their borders. However, the Government of Bangladesh has been denying that large scale illegal immigration is taking place. A mechanism for checking the problem including measures for verification has been agreed between the respective border forces of the two countries.

Chinese response to cross-border terrorism

478. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government could arrange to elicit a response from China on cross-border terrorism during recent visit by Prime Minister to that country;

(b) if so, the details of the response it received; and

(c) the steps being proposed to contain the cross-border terrorism with the active cooperation of China?